

Updates on the Recommendations from the Summit

The State Board of Education met on October 9, 2008 in Lewiston, Idaho. They voted unanimously on two items:

1. To create an Advisory Council that will be overseen by the State Board of Education and the Office of the State Board of Education, and
2. For the Transition Coordinator of the Office of the State Board of Education and the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind, with the advice of the Advisory Council, to develop a proposal for each of the summit recommendations for review by the State Board of Education.

What does this mean?

1. First, the Advisory Council will be formed. The Council will hold its first meeting by December 15, 2008.
2. Then, Transition Coordinator, the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind and the Advisory Council will work on proposals for the State Board of Education for each of the Summit Recommendations. During the process, State Board members may provide input or guidance. We will continue gathering information and work collaboratively.

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council will have 20 positions, comprised of summit participants. The Council appointments will be made by the Executive Committee of the State Board of Education, with recommendation from the Executive Director and Transition Coordinator of the Office of the State Board of Education. Nominations for the Council will be sent to the Transition Coordinator at the Office of the State Board of Education by *October 31, 2008*. The appointments will be made by *November 14, 2008*.

The Council will have equal representation for the blind/visually impaired and for the deaf/hard of hearing. The Council will function as two separate groups – one for the blind/visually impaired and one for the deaf/hard of hearing to achieve disability specific advisory work while collaborating on topics of similarity (e. g. statewide structure for increasing resources and support for parents).

The Council will be chaired by the Transition Coordinator and will hold its first meeting no later than *December 15, 2008*. The Superintendent of the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind will assist with the Council in organization and facilitation. ISDB will provide clerical functions, accessible materials, utilize video-conferencing and assistive technology for enhanced efficiency, and incorporate relevant findings/recommendations into the current system for immediate benefit.

Advisory Council Representation

Total Seats for Appointment - 20

Parents – 4 Total

- 2 - Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- 2 - Blind/Visually Impaired

Educators - 4 Total

- 2 - for the Deaf/HH (Teacher Of the Deaf)
- 2 - for the Blind/VI (Teacher of the Visually Impaired)

* In each subcategory, one must be a certified educator for the area, the other can be a regular education, special education teacher, director, or LEA administrator

Related Service Providers – 2 Total

- 1 - for the Deaf/HH (e. g. Audiologist, Speech-Language Pathologist)
- 1 - for the Blind/VI (e. g. Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist, Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist, or Low Vision Therapist)

Agencies – 6 Total

For the Deaf/HH

- 1 - representative of the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- 1 - representative of the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

For the Blind/VI

- 1 - representative of the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Representing Both

- 1 - representative of the Department of Health and Welfare
- 1 - representative of the Idaho Project for Infants and Youth with Deafblindness
- 1 - other

Advocates – 2 Total

University Preparation Program/Professional Preparation – 2 Total

Responsibilities of Advisory Council

- Provide researched advice and feedback to the State Board of Education, the Transition Coordinator, and the administration of the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind.
- Carry out directives of the State Board of Education as needed.